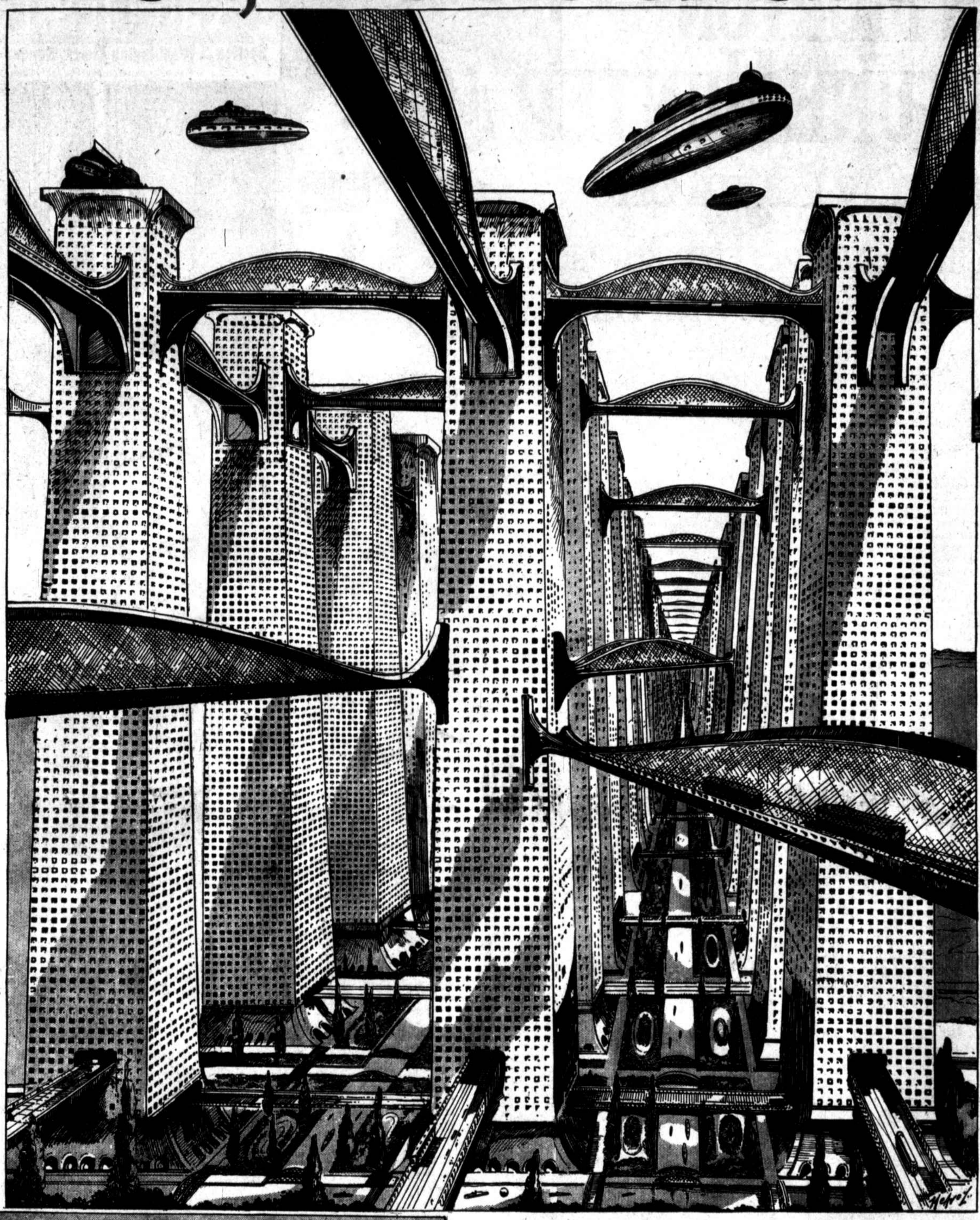
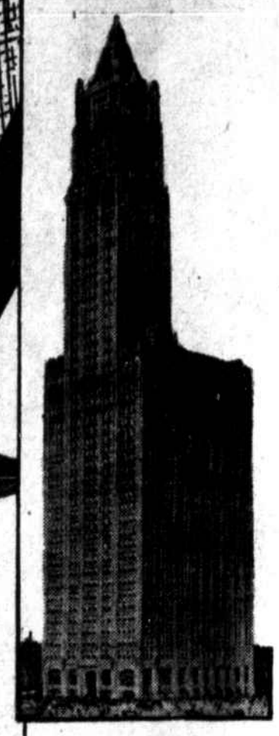
New York City 100 Years From Now

Glass Buildings 80 Stories High, Moving Sidewalks, Pleasure Gardens and Canals Instead of Streets, and Everything You Want to Do Without Going from Under Your Own Roof



Professor Ferdinand Shuler's Prophetic Conception of New York 100 Years from Now. Each Building Will Be of the Same Height, Reaching Eighty Stories Into the Heavens and Rising from a Magnificent Parkway and Watercourse.



The Fifty-One-Story Woolworth Building of New York To-day.

IF the worthy citizens of New York City who strolled the unpaved streets and shaded lanes in 1822 had been shown a picture of the great Woolworth Building, with its fifty-one stories reaching up into the clouds, they would have been quite as incredulous as the readers of this page to-day who rest their eyes upon the prophetic picture of New York 100 years from now, as drawn by Professor Ferdinand Shuler.

The increase in population and the business and family and food and freight requirements for the great cities of the world in another hundred years will inevitably produce a municipal architecture something like the design Professor Shuler has worked out as shown in the accompanying drawings, he asserts.

One hundred years from now the buildings of this scientific city, as Mr. Shuler conceives them, will be from sixty to eighty stories high, composed of glass, steel and concrete, and having a base the size of an ordinary street block. Double walls of glass, separated by the space of about a foot and strengthened throughout with heavy wire screening, will enclose these mammoth structures from the foundation stones to the heavens.

People working and living behind these walls will move in scientifically diffused light, contributing greatly to their physical well-being. These glass walls, colored either green, light blue or cream, will allow this light to permeate every corner of the building, but prevent any view into the interior from the outside. Windows will be made as at present.

Enormous bridges connecting these gigantic buildings at different levels will help hold them up and turn the whole city, as it were, into one great structure. These bridges will also be used for various traffic systems between the buildings and outward into the surrounding country.

Opportunities for high mental development and greater physical well-being will be the gifts of future years to the children and grandchildren of those now living.

Imagine how your great-grandchild will spend his days. He will get up in the morning in his own hotel apartment, eat his breakfast, go to his office or manufacturing plant, visit a department store, attend a picture show in the afternoon and a dance or theatre in the evening, send his children to business college and his wife to church without any one of them moving out of the same building.

The street level will comprise a paradise of beautiful parks, dotted with splendid statues and woven with shaded promenades leading here and there to music pavilions in which all the latest melodies may be heard at any suitable hour.

A channeled water system, traversing the city north and south and east and west, will furnish the means for bathing, canoeing and power boating. Among other things the water system will be used to purify the air, as it will be in constant motion and crossed by bridges equipped with rolling sidewalks.

Subways will be then out of date, as people will prefer the healthier, less expensive elevated system for their avenues of travel and transportation.

No man will be without his own aeroplane and electric automobile, with plenty of opportunity to enjoy them. The great increase in labor-saving machinery will make it possible to work but a few hours a day, and in three or four months sufficient output will be made to supply all the goods the population will be capable of using in an entire year. This will leave plenty of time for every man to pursue his own ideals for happiness, and academies will be present on every hand where he may enjoy courses in philosophy, music, art, religion and the esthetic sciences.

Food will be chosen on a scientific basis with regard to its curative properties, so that the ills of the flesh will be reduced to a minimum and few drugs or medicines taken.

When a man sits down to eat he will go into a restaurant equipped with self-serving tables. After writing on his menu the particular food he desires he will put the menu in a little slot designed for it, press a button which will take it into the kitchen, and after a short time has elapsed the centre of the table will rise and before him he will find his entire meal, which had been prepared by cooks located in the kitchen on the floor below. Music will be served at meals and large and attractive paintings will look down from restaurant walls.

Temperature both inside and outside the buildings will be kept at a more even level than at present by means of electric heating and cooling devices. No unsightly smoke or noxious gases will blotch the landscape or offend the nostrils.

Motion will be rapid and silent and accidents seldom heard of, because of an especially designed traffic system in the air, on the bridges and on the ground, which will prevent vehicles running in opposite directions from striking each other and which will furnish different levels of passage for pedestrians.

The nerve-wearing trials of shopping will be a thing of the past. For instance, if the man of the future cares to buy a suit of clothes he will go into a building where clothes for men and boys are on display throughout the entire building containing a special floor for just his size. Furniture, hardware, pianos and other goods will be sold through this same arrangement.

In the city of the future each building will be built far enough apart to allow a much greater quantity of light and air for every structure than we now have. As no inflammable material will enter into the construction the entire city will be fireproof.

Each building will have a number painted in very bright colors on the outside, and between the tenth and fifteenth floors an automatic timekeeper will be located, showing only the numerals of the hour and the minute, which will be illuminated at night.

The entire business in this city will start in its rise upward on the same level as the lowest bridge, which will be about four of our ordinary stories from the ground. Below this business level waiting rooms and retiring rooms for those who seek protection from the rain or the heat or the cold will be located. A rolling floor system will exist in every building and on every bridge. Extensive rolling sidewalks operated by electro-magnetic power will connect building to building.

Besides elevators, large spiral trains, shod with glass plates, which in turn will slide on a glass plate rail, having water or oil between, and kept in place by compressed air and moved by electro-magnetic power, will be a common means of transportation. These spiral trains will travel in a shaft up and down in an endless manner, stopping at every tenth floor. Connections between each tenth floor will be made by elevators similar to those of to-day, and passengers leaving the elevators will step on a rolling floor to be conveyed wherever they desire.

The bridges linking building to building will be very wide, containing fenced-in lanes so that vehicles passing each other will always have their separate lane for travel. Its centre, which will be given over to a "trouble section" for disabled trains or automobiles, and the crossing from one side to another or into the centre will be made by a subway system which will travel diagonally beneath the regular lanes of traffic. But it is anticipated that few trains or automobiles will become disabled, as they will all be moved by electric power, thereby made easier to handle, cleaner and comparatively noiseless. Trains will not contain wheels as those of to-day, except as an auxiliary method for covering ground, but will travel on glass plates, as mentioned before, forwarded by electric magnetic action and balanced by gyroscopes. A speed of two hundred miles an hour will be easily accomplished.

On the higher bridges these electric trains will be used for freight and the transportation and collection of mail, and from the very tops of the buildings aeroplanes will fly to distant cities. The freight cars of these days will be designed especially for the products they will convey, such as furniture, building material or the products of the farm. Each car will have an automatic arrangement, consisting of demountable wheels, whereby it will be possible for that car to deliver freight anywhere off the regular line of travel. But no automobile or train of any description will be allowed to travel on the ground floor or business district of the city, so that there will be no fear of pedestrians being run down or killed.

Outside the city limits the bridges will lead onward into the streets, which will be fenced in after the same manner as the bridges. Roads will cross each other at different levels so as to prevent traffic congestion.

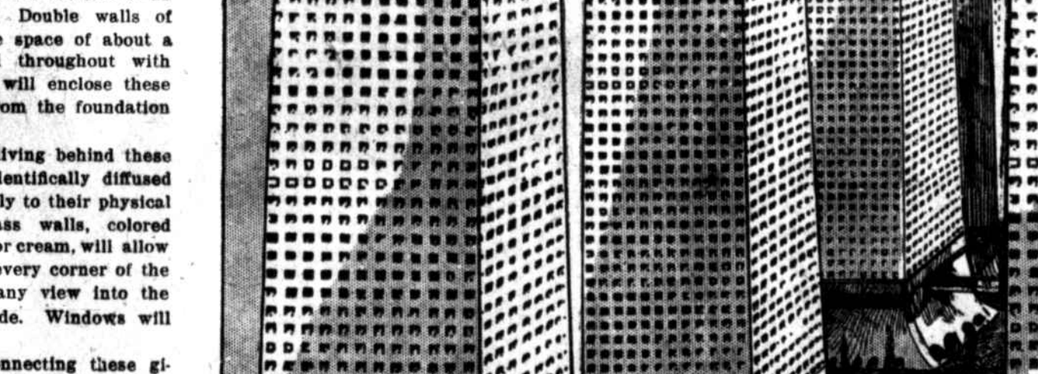
The air service of the golden age of the future will be enormous, as nearly all distant transportation will be conducted through the air. Anti-gravity screens on every aeroplane will prevent these machines from falling out of the sky headlong to the earth. These anti-gravity screens are already in an experimental stage and science throughout the world is looking forward to the universal adoption of some such device on our modern air cruisers.

Radio power will propel these aircraft and immense flying ships will contain plants for storing electric energy which will be constantly charged through contact with wireless current. The wonderful airships of the airlines of the future will have elevators, rolling floors, swimming pools and practically every convenience that the mind of man can picture as necessary.

In order to prevent collisions, a plan such as this may be found practical. Airships flying north and south will fly one hundred yards above the landing platforms and those going east and west will travel two hundred yeards above the platforms, which will be located on the tops of the buildings. The main "air streets" will be between the buildings, while the space above the buildings will be used in making connections between directions north and south and east and west.

Air liners flying in the business district of the city will not fly back to their starting point on the same air street, but will travel on to the next street, where the traveling will be going in the opposite direction. The landing platforms on the tops of the buildings will be equipped with large numerals of various colors and illuminated at night, also with a station containing a powerful radio sending and receiving apparatus, so as to keep in constant touch with any airship bound for any particular building.

Professor Ferdinand Shuler, who designed this city, has been a student of anthropology for many years, and for the past fifteen years has devoted much time to developing his plans for this ideal city of the future



New York 100 Years Ago. From a Sketch Taken off the Battery Showing Lower New York, Which Is Now Covered by Modern Skyscrapers, Including the Highest Buildings in the World.